

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-3 are pending in the referenced patent application. Claim 1 is independent and claim 2 is dependent. Claim 3 is withdrawn.

Claim 1 has been amended for clarification.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,496,090 (hereafter “Nishida”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,339,059 (hereafter “Kawamura”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As amended, claim 1 now requires limitations “said fixed contact plate comprises a contact-fitting portion to which said fixed contact is fixed, a leg portion from which terminal portions extend, and a connection portion for connecting said contact-fitting portion to said push-in fixing portion; a connection position between said contact-fitting portion and said connection portion and a connection position between said connection portion and said leg portion are bent, respectively, so that positions of said fixed contacts and said terminal portions are deviated with respect to an implanting direction of said fixed contact plate” and “the bend line of the moving contact plate and the fixed contact plate is perpendicular to the direction of movement of the moving contact plate.” Advantageously, this construction can provide the desired elastic force due to the connection portion’s small width, and can improve impact resistance by preventing stress

concentration, while also making it possible to set a reserve load due to the bending work applied to the contact-fitting portion.

Nishida fails to teach or suggest at least the claimed limitations of amended independent claim 1 discussed above. Specifically, Nishida does not teach a fixed contact plate, wherein the contact-fitting portion and leg portion of the fixed contact plate are *deviated in position* along the implanting direction of the fixed contact plate, via the use of both a connection portion and connection positions. Further, Kawamura fails to provide that which Nishida lacks with respect to amended claim 1.

Additionally, with respect to dependent claim 2, the bendable support design, as taught by Kawamura, is polygonal in shape, purposely deformed during manufacturing to establish a specific distance between the fixed and moving contact plates, and applies only to the fixed contact plate. In contrast, neither the moving contact plate nor the fixed contact plate of the present invention has a bendable support that is polygonal in shape. Instead, the moving contact plate, as recited in claim 2, is adjusted for relay accuracy by changing the shape of the notch portion located along the plate's centerline. Therefore, Kawamura fails to teach or suggest at least this limitation of claim 2 as well. Moreover, Nishida admittedly lacks this element and, thus, cannot supply that which Kawamura lacks with respect to claim 2.

In view of the above, Nishida and Kawamura, whether viewed separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1. Thus, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over the cited references. Claim 2 is dependent on claim 1 and, thus, is patentable for at least the same reasons. Further, claim 2 is additionally patentable for the reasons set forth above with

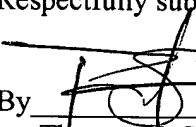
specific references to claim 2. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 15115/096001).

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Attachments